

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 INR-10 CIAE-00

DRC-01 RSC-01 /077 W

----- 035633

R 210842Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2493

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 1277

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BG, UR

SUBJECT: SPECULATION ON MUJIB'S ILLNESS

REF: DACCA 1228; MOSCOW 3954

1. WE HAVE HESITATED TO DISSEMINATE LESS THAN AUTHORITATIVE INFORMATION ON MUJIB'S CONDITION, BUT GIVEN THE SPREAD OF SUCH SPECULATION ABROAD WE ARE SUBMITTING THE FOLLOWING FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

2. IN DACCA, THE MOST WISELY CIRCULATED RUMORS CONCERNING THE ILLNESS ARE LUNG OR THROAT CANCER AND/OR A HEART CONDITION. FROM A NUMBER OF WELL-PLACED SOURCES, IT IS PROBABLE THAT MUJIB HAS BEEN COUGHING BLOOD AND THAT THERE IS ALSO A HEART CONDITION OF SOME KIND. ONE SOURCE WAS INFORMED BY MUJIB'S POLITICAL SECRETARY, TOFAEL AHMED, THAT MUJIB WAS ANTICIPATING A STAY OF THREE WEEKS IN MOSCOW. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, MUJIB HAS HAD INCIDENTS OF COUGHING BLOOD IN THE PAST BUT THAT THE DOCTORS THEN HAD NOT CONSIDERED LUNG CANCER.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE X-RAYS TAKEN LAST WEEK REVEALED NOTHING ABNORMAL BUT AN EKG INDICATED THAT MUJIB HAD SUFFERED A MILD HEART ATTACK MARCH 13.

3. IT IS INTERESTING THAT SOME AVERAGE MIDDLE CLASS BENGALLEES ARE CONVINCED THAT MUJIB'S TRIP TO MOSCOW AS PROMPTED NOT SO MUCH BY
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HIS HEALTH AS HIS DESIRE TO AVOID HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO INDIA.

THERE APPEARS TO BE LESS CONCERN AMONG THE PUBLIC FOR MUJIB'S PERSONAL WELL BEING THAN WAS EVIDENT IN 19L WHEN HE WENT TO LONDON FOR SURGERY. THIS ATTITUDE, OF COURSE, MAY CHANGE THE LONGER HE REMAINS AWAY.
NEWBERRY

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NNN

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